

FRI Rate Status FAQ

Q: What is the FRI rate status?

A: The FRI rate status is designed to classify FRI rates at each training center into one of 3 categories on a weekly basis. It is intended to help preventive medicine personnel at the participating training centers monitor FRI among their trainees.

Q: What are the 3 categories?

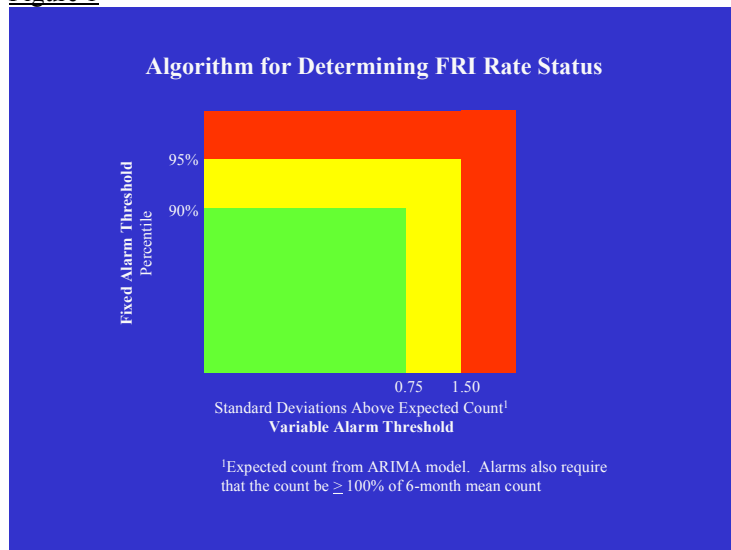
A: The 3 categories are:

- At or below expected value
- Moderately elevated
- Substantially elevated

Q: How is the status determined?

A: A combination of fixed and variable alarm thresholds are used to determine the FRI rate status (Fig. 1). Fixed thresholds are generated for each site based upon the 90th and 95th percentile of their past rates. Variable thresholds are calculated using autoregressive integrated moving average (ARIMA) modeling. A separate ARIMA model is generated for each training center.

Figure 1



Q: What happens if the fixed and variable statuses are not the same?

A: The most extreme FRI rate status is used for that week's classification. For example, if a site is classified as moderately elevated using the fixed threshold and significantly elevated using the variable threshold, they are considered to be in significantly elevated status for that week.

Q: How is FRI rate status information disseminated?

A: FRI rate graphs are updated weekly on the DoD-GEIS Navy Node web site at NHRC San Diego. Regular e-mail updates containing links to the data are sent to on-site collaborators and senior level DoD preventive medicine personnel.

Q: How is the FRI rate status used?

A: Response is at the discretion of on-site preventive medicine personnel. This system is designed to provide early warning of potential FRI epidemics. The professional judgment of on-site personnel is required to determine when intervention is warranted.